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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EAP/RSP/TC, EAP/PA, EAP/PD -
ROBERT PALLADINO
DEPARTMENT PASS AIT/WASHINGTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF STATE RANDY SCHRIEVER'S TAIWAN TRIP, NORTH

SIPDIS

KOREA

1. Summary: Almost all the major Chinese-language Taipei dailies reported in their inside pages July 12 on the visit by former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Randy Schriver to Taipei. The pro-independence "Liberty Times," Taiwan's biggest daily, carried a news story on page four with the headline: "Randy Schriver: One China is just part of the elements of the United States' Taiwan Policy." The centrist "China Times" ran a story on its cross-Straits news page with the headline: "Randy Schriver visits [Taiwan] and starts arguments over the [U.S.] arms deal." The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" also topped a story with the headline: "[KMT Chairman] Lien Chan meets with Randy Schriver [and said]: It is the Bian administration that has blocked the arms procurement bill." The pro-unification "United Daily News" carried a news story that was topped with: "Randy Schriver: It is very dangerous to include national defense budget into a referendum."

2. In terms of editorials, an editorial in the "Taiwan Daily" strongly criticized KMT Chairman Lien Chan's remarks Monday that put the blame for the stalled U.S. arms procurement bill on the DPP government. The editorial said the U.S. government and American friends, including Schriver, should not be hoodwinked by Lien. An editorial in the limited-circulation, pro-independence, English-language "Taiwan News" commented on the crisis concerning North Korea, noting that Taiwan should closely track economic developments on the Korean peninsula and actively participate in developments. End summary.

1. Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Randy Schriver's Taiwan Trip

"[KMT Chairman] Lien Chan's Move to Put the Blame for the Stalled Arms Deal on the Government Is a Failed Attempt to Cover up His Pro-China, No-Taiwan, and Anti-U.S. Route"

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" [circulation: 150,000] noted in an editorial (7/12):

"Former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Randy Schriver called on KMT Chairman Lien Chan Monday morning to express Washington's concern over the arms deals and the possibility of holding a meeting between [President] Chen Shui-bian and [Chinese President] Hu Jintao. According to the account relayed by KMT Spokesperson Cheng Li-wen afterwards, Lien said he had no idea how the DPP government would promote the 'Bian-Hu meeting' since Chen totally denies the 1992 Consensus and [official] interaction across the Taiwan Strait is extremely difficult. With regard to the arms procurement bill, Lien said the obstruction [of the bill's passage] 'actually comes from within the DPP government.' Lien's statement is both very daring and shameful because he not only treats the U.S. government and Schriver as idiots but also sees the Taiwan people, who know perfectly why the arms procurement bill has failed to pass, as nothing."

"In Taiwan, everybody knows that the DPP is proactively promoting the passage of the arms procurement bill, and everybody knows that [Taiwan] Defense Minister Lee Jye has repeated several times that he would step down if the arms procurement bill fails to pass. Instead, it is the opposition Pan-Blue Camp and their caucuses in the Legislative Yuan that have tried all they can to block and thwart the passage of the arms procurement bill. Such a fact is well and widely known by Taiwan society, and nobody would think that it is the ruling party that wants to block the bill or is itself an obstruction to the bill's passage. The U.S. government surely knows [this fact] very clearly, or Schriver would not have to come to Taiwan to lobby Lien. .

"As a matter of fact, Lien was just attempting to cover up [his intent]. The KMT, under Lien's leadership, is opposed to the passage of the arms procurement bill and has deliberately hindered it. Its move is in essence a reflection Lien's pro-China and anti-U.S. position. .

"In a nutshell, the U.S. arms procurement bill is against China's interests and will generate obstacles to China's attempt to use force to annex Taiwan. China is opposed to the U.S. arms deals, so Lien must do what China expects him to do and what fits China's interests, namely, to oppose the arms deals that would help to safeguard Taiwan against China's threats. [It is as] simple as that. We believe that American friends and the U.S. government, including Schriver, can definitely understand such logic and will not be hoodwinked by Lien. ."

12. North Korea

"Taiwan Should Prepare for Future Role in Region"

The pro-independence, English-language "Taiwan News" [circulation: 20,000] editorialized (7/12):

". Therefore, maintaining the status quo on the Korean Peninsula will continue to be the first priority for Washington. Although North Korea's nuclear threat to the U.S. position in Northeast Asia and to Japan and South Korea is far from resolved, Washington is being pulled and pushed into having to consider the strategic option of a policy of comprehensive engagement toward North Korea.

"Under this option, Washington will adopt direct or indirect measures to encourage North Korea to improve her weak economy and thereby try to foster peaceful evolution instead of launching costly effort at military regime change. .

"The adoption of an engagement policy by the U.S. could offer important benefits for North Korea and for the region generally. With the adoption of engagement policies toward Pyongyang as well as toward Beijing, Northeastern Asia can hopefully look forward to a more relaxed environment that will be more conducive to economic development. .

"Taiwan's government and private sector should closely track developments in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asian region in general, especially since the continuing tide of globalization will necessarily intensify the importance of the regional economies in Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia. .

"As the Asia-Pacific region is undergoing a further stage of deepening economic cooperation, war will not fit our regional priorities. Values of peace, stability and prosperity should be emphasized, and we hope sincerely that the hawkish neoconservative camp in Washington can learn enough from the disaster in Iraq to give peace a chance on the Korean peninsula."

KEEGAN